

# COUNTY NEWS



PUBLISHED FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

August 2007

## County Retirees Spend Golden Years Living Golden Rule

*"I'm  
doing this  
because  
the closest  
person in  
his life  
shouldn't  
have to be  
a stranger  
like me."*

(County  
retiree Phil  
Powers—  
pictured  
below,  
right—with  
his mentee,  
Wakeem)

County employees serve countless customers while working hard, day in and day out, for a decade or two (or three). By retirement, most are happy to relax. But some, like Sue Olin, find themselves coming right back to the County to serve a different need.

Olin worked in Child Protective Services for 21 years before retiring in 2005. She was looking forward to her retirement years, but still wanted to keep busy. So during her last three months with the County, Olin pulled double-duty, finishing up her full-time job and starting 50 hours of training for the Master Gardener program.

The program, run by the Farm and Home Advisor, trains volunteer gardening enthusiasts to educate the public about home gardening and pest management. Master Gardeners answer questions on a horticulture hotline and at community fairs; help plant gardens at local schools; and plan educational field trips.

Of her volunteerism Olin says: "You know, the County was always very good to me. We had a lot of volunteers at CPS and always appreciated them, and doing this just seemed natural."

Phil Powers' volunteerism is a natural extension of his work with the County. He retired from CPS in 2004 after 12 years of service. He has since become a mentor to a developmentally disabled teenager through the Health and Human Service's Foster Youth Mentor Program.

Powers took charge of the teen's education, takes him on regular outings and is helping him search for a relative with whom he can live. In return, this teen has helped Powers gain a faint, but sincere, appreciation of rap music and, despite previous violent behaviors, has never treated Powers with anything less than respect.

As for why he does what he does, Powers says: "I'm doing this because the closest person in his life shouldn't have to be a stranger like me."

A County retiree who seems to prefer being a stranger to no one is Vickie Velasco, who retired from Aging & Independence Services five years ago. After working for 31 years, Velasco still volunteers 25 hours a week.

She leads four Feeling Fit clubs around San Diego County, guiding seniors in light exercises to help them gain flexibility, strength and balance. In between traveling to classes twice a week, Velasco coaches a teenage girl in the Workforce Academy for Youth (WAY) Program, which places foster youth in County jobs under mentorship.

"Anytime they need me," says Velasco of her volunteer efforts. Citing her "wonderful" supervisors and flexible schedule when she was a working mother, she explains her dedication with simplicity: "The County was very good to me."

Echoing that sentiment is Betty Morell, former HHSA Deputy Director and WAY Program volunteer. After 34 years, Betty retired in 2004 and became a life coach to a foster teen. Most recently, Betty's teen relied on her advice while purchasing a car and shopping together for business attire for an exciting new internship. Although the teen's internship has taken her Washington, D.C., Betty remains in close contact.

"I'm glad to volunteer through the County, after so many years of seeing the good work people do," she says. "I still feel that I have something to give."



Retiree Sue Olin volunteers in the Master Gardener program run by the Farm and Home Advisor.



Vickie Velasco, left, is still helping seniors - and others - though she left County service five years ago.



## News Briefs

### County Earns Credit Rating Upgrade

Fitch Ratings issued the County an overall credit rating of AA+, making San Diego the highest rated urban county in California. The rating was issued after the County's annual request for an upgrade from the three national credit rating agencies in preparation for the issuance of Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes (TRANS). Additionally, Fitch Ratings upgraded the County to AA from AA- on several long-term debt issues, which include pension obligation bonds and funding for a variety of capital projects. These ratings give potential investors an objective benchmark, similar to an individual's personal credit rating, to measure the County's financial and operational risk. Higher credit ratings reduce the costs of borrowing funds, maximizing taxpayer dollars.

### Treasury Reaps National Recognition

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the San Diego County Treasury for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The nationally-recognized certificate is awarded annually by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. It is considered the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

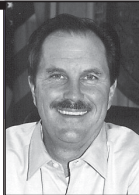
The Treasury CAFR met the high standards of the program by demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story, motivating potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

### Cash Handling Program Certified

The Treasurer-Tax Collector has received national certification from the Association of Public Treasurers of the United States and Canada (APT) for its Cash Handling Training Program. APT described the program as exemplary and noted that the reviewers made no suggestions for improvement. The Treasurer-Tax Collector will receive formal certification at the APT convention, held in San Diego in August.

The Cash Handling Training Program was designed to increase efficiency in processing and safeguarding cash, to protect employees from inappropriate charges of mishandling funds by defining their responsibilities in the cash collection process, and to strengthen internal controls for cash collection to prevent mishandling of County funds and reduce the number of errors and costs.

See County News Extra for more NewsBriefs



## In Walt's Words

### What We Say And Do Matters

Thanks to everyone who took the time to submit answers to my patriotic trivia contest. I received some very spirited and very detailed responses. Some were sent from home in the wee hours of the night, some over the weekend, and one was even sent from an employee on vacation.

Most everyone was diligent in their research and presented rock solid evidence to support their case. Unfortunately, not everyone caught the twist in the second question. Interestingly enough, our winner was not the first contest respondent; but he was the first one who didn't get tripped up by query "From which *overseas* country did the largest number of tourists visit the U.S. last year?" Our winner, Tony Potter, employed a combination of speed and accuracy that won him the prize.

Tony has been an administrative analyst with the County for 9 years, and his response arrived at 12:28 a.m. As he noted in his e-mail, this was "VERY VERY EARLY!" Well, Tony's night-owl efforts paid off, because I paid a visit to him and his co-workers in the Health & Human Services Agency Contract Support office with an all-American Julian apple pie and my own patriotic medley of songs.

I hope that you enjoyed your friends, family and freedom on Independence Day. Now that everyone is back in the office, the

answers you have all been waiting for are on the next page.

A unique situation arose from this game when we were checking answers to the first question, regarding how many cities and towns are named Freedom. It turns out that there were two different answers depending on which source you used, both of which were found on the same federal government Web site.



Trivia contest winner Tony Potter, of HHSA, scored an applie pie and a song from CAO Walt Ekard.

In fairness to all participants, we decided to eliminate that question, although it just so happens that our winner did submit what we originally thought was the "correct" answer.

This was a good reminder to me that as a government agency ourselves, we must always remember that the public relies on us for solid information. Contradicting ourselves, or not properly explaining our methods, could erode the public's trust in the work we do every day. Being thorough and accurate, even when things get busy, will help us to grow our reputation as a transparent, responsive and innovative government.

*Walt*

Walt Ekard  
Chief Administrative Officer



## Walt's Fourth of July Trivia Answers

1. How many cities or towns in the United States are named "Freedom?"

**Five.**

2. From which overseas country did the largest number of tourists visit the United States last year?

**United Kingdom.**

3. How many future U.S. Presidents signed the Declaration of Independence?

**Two.**

4. What award was given to George M. Cohan, whose life was portrayed in the 1942 movie "Yankee Doodle Dandy?"

**The Congressional Gold Medal.**

5. A vexillologist is an expert in what?

**The history of flags.**

6. What phrase is engraved on the top of the Washington Monument?

**"Laus Deo", which means "Praise be to God."**

7. What was the original name of "The Star Spangled Banner" and where was it composed?

**"Defense of Fort McHenry; Baltimore."**

8. Who famously said, "Give me liberty or give me death!"

**Patrick Henry.**

9. After the British burned the Library of Congress in 1814, who replaced its inventory with his own private library collection?

**Thomas Jefferson.**

10. What country singer released a song entitled "Independence Day?"

**Martina McBride.**

## Best Practices in Passwords

When choosing passwords, it's tempting to think simple in order to keep it straight. A child, family pet or one's own name provide passwords that are easy to remember when logging on to County computers and software applications. Unfortunately, when it's easy to remember—it's easy to crack.

Passwords based on names or words that can be found in the dictionary are easily decoded by computer hackers. By contrast, the most secure passwords consist of random letters or numbers. That's why County policy dictates that employee passwords contain a combination of at least three of the following: uppercase letters, lowercase letters, numbers and special characters.

Many employees wonder how exactly they are supposed to remember a random sequence of letters and numbers. A good technique is the use of a *pass phrase*. A pass phrase borrows the first letter of each word in an easily remembered phrase and uses it as a password. For example, someone who had a home address of 1234 Main Street could remember this simple statement: "I live at 1234 Main Street." Using capital letters for proper nouns, this would translate into the password "Ila1234MS." This would be very difficult to crack using conventional hacking methods or just by guessing.

An additional tool against would-be hackers is the use of special characters in passwords. Special characters (!@#\$%^&\*{} [] ) can add a new dimension of complexity to a password without making it more difficult for the user to remember. For example, inserting the # sign before any number in a password is a simple trick to retain. Or, simply putting the entire password in parentheses or brackets should come to mind easily.

There is no limit to the number of creative passwords that are difficult to guess, but easy for the user to remember.

Mike Teays, Technology Manager in the Chief Information Office, offers a common sense tip against a habit that is surprisingly commonplace. He says that employees should avoid keeping paper records of their passwords:

"Taking care to create a secure password doesn't make much sense if you are just going to write it down on a sticky note and place it inside your nearest desk drawer—or worse, on your monitor—for anyone to come across."

For more information on selecting and maintaining a secure password, go to the County's Password Tip Sheet at <http://cww.co.san-diego.ca.us/cto/transition/pdf/tip-passwords0604.pdf>.

## County Celebrates Mr. Padres' Hall of Fame Induction

A giant replica of Tony Gwynn's 1984 Padres jersey was unveiled on the bayside tower of the County Administration Center on Wednesday, July 25. The jersey, which commemorates Gwynn's induction into baseball's Hall of Fame, was a joint project between the Board of Supervisors and Cox Communications.

Supervisors Greg Cox and Dianne Jacob and CAO Walt Ekard joined the Padres' Friar mascot and a crowd of about 75 onlookers for the event. Ekard led the entire crowd in singing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." The staff high atop the CAC tower pulled rope lines to unveil the jersey when the crowd sang their cue: "One, two, three strikes you're out!"



## Thirty Years and Going Strong

# County Workers Follow Varied Paths in Creating Long-Term Careers

In 1964, the Beatles made their historic appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show, the unmanned Gemini 1 was launched into space, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. won the Nobel Peace Prize.

in his job, but for the past eight years it's been the therapy he's needed to get through some personal pain.

"If I had to sit in a chair and think about it, I'd probably go down like a lot of people I know," Hartpence said, referring to friends and acquaintances that passed away soon after retiring.

Wolf never intended to begin his County career in the Materials Lab—it was only supposed to be a temporary assignment. But, "they wanted to keep me and I wanted to stay," he says, and stayed he has. Though Wolf could retire, he likes being needed.

"I have the expertise that's in short supply here," he says.

Wolf credits the work environment created by good supervisors for keeping him from leaving. Hartpence says he not only is enjoying his work again, "I'm working for a good guy and that makes it all worthwhile."

There are currently about 170 employees at the County with 30 or more years of work experience. While that's less than two percent of the County workforce, it's part of the bigger picture that shows that once County employees hit the crucial 10-year mark (in terms of retirement benefits), they generally stick around.

Statistics provided by Human Resources show that the County workforce is staying with the County a bit longer now than in years past. The current average length of service among active employees is 10.07 years, while the average years of service

for employees who left the County over the past five years is 9.64 years. (The Department of Labor reported that as of January 2006, the average length of service for public sector employees in local government was just 6.6 years.)

Though Hartpence and Wolf have stayed in one place their whole career, others in the "30 Plus Club" have used the diverse opportunities presented by the County to keep it interesting.

Cheryl Wardenaar has been with Animal Services the past 22 years, a department she loves and plans to work for until she retires. But in her early days, she "did time" at the central jail as well as juvenile probation and the library.



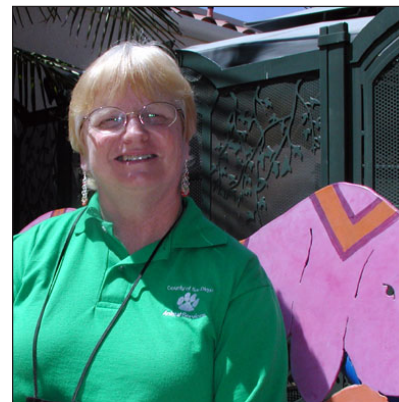
Gary Hartpence, left, and Roy Wolf are the backbone of Public Works' Materials Lab.

Here in San Diego, Gary Hartpence was just starting out with the County as engineering tech in the Materials Lab (part of Public Works' Construction Engineering division). Now 43 years later, Hartpence has the distinction of being the County's most senior employee.

He and his coworker Roy Wolf, a 35-year County veteran, are the backbone of the Materials Lab, a place in which there is no substitute for experience.

"When we go to work on a road, they'll know something that nobody else knows," says supervisor Larry Horsman. When the department is looking at repairs in a particular area, they can offer their experience to advise what the potential pitfalls may be.

Hartpence, who turns 70 this year, isn't saying how much longer he'll stay



Cheryl Wardenaar, of Animal Services, never felt the need to look beyond the County when she changed jobs.

She loved her work at the jail, but the shift work and overtime created hardships at home once she had a baby. When she set out to find a new job, she never once looked outside the County.

"The County's great because you have such a vast array of jobs and things you can do," Wardenaar says. She encour-

*Continued on next page*

### Board of Supervisors

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Chief Administrative Officer  
Walter F. Ekard

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(click on "Employee Newsletter") or via the County's Intranet at CWW. This information is available upon request in alternative formats for persons with disabilities.

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# COUNTY NEWS *Extra*

## County 'Lifers' Share Their Stories

*Continued from Page 4*

ages anyone considering turning their County job into a County career to go for it: "I don't think the grass is greener [on the outside]," she says.

The County has been a family affair for Wardenaar, as her job at the jail is where she met her husband, a former deputy sheriff. Her future son-in-law is a full-time employee at Animal Services and her daughter, Krista, is a student worker.

Civil service has been a family affair that's spanned three generations for Health and Human Services' Susan Goodloe. Her parents both worked in civil service and encouraged her to do the same. Her daughter, Johanna, is trying her hand at a County career, working in HHSA's personnel department.

Goodloe, manager of the Appeals, Over Payment Specialist Units, Public Assistance Information Unit and Quality Control, started her career as a junior clerk. Along the way, she determined what she wanted to become when she "grew up" and planned her career path. She says that she has reached her goal in terms of job classification.

Along the way, she benefitted from female mentors who were always supportive:

"Having people there, always available and saying things like 'keep taking classes,' it's been a real positive in my life," Goodloe says.

For Joy Kutzke, of the Civil Service Commission, it was her boss' support when she returned from maternity leave after the birth of her first child that made the biggest difference in her life. She had always figured she'd go back to work, but

felt that she just couldn't do it and resigned.

"He said to me, 'you're not being fair to yourself, you're not being fair to the County,'" Kutzke remembers. "He said give it a couple of weeks."

Kutzke says that in those days, it wasn't as accepted as it is now to balance the roles of being a professional and a mother: women either went back to work 40 hours a week or stayed at home with their chil-



*HHSA's Susan Goodloe benefitted from the guidance of mentors during her County career.*

dren. When she was still determined to quit, her boss (Bill Kelly, who later become the County's CFO) offered her a part time position—something that was quite unusual at the time.

"I can't express how much I thoroughly appreciate the opportunity," Kutzke says. "It ended up being a custom fit for me personally. And I would hope that the fit and the service was of the caliber [to the

Like those interviewed for the article, Jean Shepard, director of the Health and Human Services Agency, has been with the County for more than 30 years. She offers her advice for turning a job with the County into a long-term career:

**1** Take advantage of the many opportunities at the County to find something that you really have a passion for. The years fly by when you value and enjoy your work.

**2** Constantly practice win-win thinking and collaboration. You can accomplish so much more as part of a team, and even problems that seem insurmountable can be solved if you use the collective wisdom of a group.

**3** Remember to celebrate the successes. But also embrace crises—learn from your mistakes.

County] that I feel the fit was to me."

A good fit is how a six week temporary assignment turned into a 30-year career for Housing and Community Development's Sandi Nunn. Even though the department is small, HCD's growth over the years has provided Nunn all the opportunities she could want. Her passion for her department and its work remains unwavering.

"I've enjoyed the department tremendously," she says, "Everything has its ups and downs. Overall, when I count all the blessings that I've had here...I don't think I could have duplicated this experience anywhere else."

## [ Ver•ba•tim ]

**Jo Beth Lytle and Jeff Stoffel** (Public Works) were credited for their role in providing outstanding service to a Bonita resident in ensuring an erosion problem was fixed.

"I thought that with the rainy season having passed that I would 'get in the queue' for such improvements. Imagine my surprise when within a week of my email all the work had been done!"

**Linda Gregg** (ARCC, Fictitious Business Names) exceeded the expectations of a client with her fine service.

"All too often the good work of competent employees goes unnoticed...[Linda] was able to help me almost as soon as I entered the door. She also volunteered to save me some money."

**Tony Villarreal** (HHS/Alcohol & Drug Related Services) received a kudos letter from a colleague at Aging and Independence.

"Tony went above and beyond what I would normally expect to help with the application. You are lucky to have him as a team member."

**Lerma Deguzman and Marcia Kennard** (ARCC) earned a letter of praise for their outstanding work.

"They dug in, doing some research, and after a couple of hours, I was a satisfied customer. I appreciate the conscientious dedication...They both should be recognized and commended."

**Hasti Javid** (Environmental Health/Vector Control) pleased a customer with her assistance with a mosquito abatement project.

"Hasti came out here and she was just very diligent and thorough...the best use of my tax dollars that I can think of."

**Kim Dinh and Lupe Aust** (ARCC) received a letter of sincere appreciation for their personal assistance.

"Kim and Lupe were exceptional in searching existing records and helping resolve issues...Obviously; their work is more than just (a) job to them."

**Cartography Unit** (DPW) was praised for its contribution on a bilingual poster which won two national awards.

"I am confident that the excellence of the design work by you and your team played a significant role in the poster's ability to win these recognitions."

**Janice Rodriguez and Aron Miller** (ARCC) were called "outstanding employees" by a very satisfied customer.

"Our homeowners' association needed assistance yesterday in obtaining copies of recorded documents and both Ms. Rodriguez and Mr. Miller went out of their way to be of assistance."

**Sheryl Deleon** (HHS/Alcohol & Drug Related Services) was thanked for her going above and beyond in taking time to help with a client's Medi-Cal case.

"Sheryl was extremely professional, courteous, pleasant and helpful."

**Mary Ann Barao** (ARCC) was thanked for her assistance with a quick claim deed.

"Ms. Barao is very considerate and generous with her time."

**Connie Tomlinson and Douglas Thompson** (ARCC) came to the assistance of a couple needing a review of their property assessment.

"With pleasure I inform you that they both were friendly, professional and knowledgeable as they saw to our every need – a real asset to an organization."

**Martha Armenta** (HHS/Alcohol & Drug Related Services) received a warm thank you from a customer for being attentive and informative.

"I appreciate your dedication, and sensed a real concern in your voice."

**Lucy Neves'** (ARCC, Vital Records) customer service was rated as outstanding.

"She understood my concerns, took immediate and direct action. She showed complete professionalism, decision making ability and courtesy."

**Jackie Johnson** (Environmental Health/Vector Control) assisted a client with a raccoon problem and was referred to as "extraordinary."

"I called your organization this morning and I got Jackie, and not only did Jackie help me, she went above and beyond. She's the type of worker a caller like me really appreciates."

**Esther Garrido and Mary Martinez** (ARCC) received a note of thanks from a grateful customer.

"They were very polite and extremely helpful."

**Robert Venter and Gil Farala** (Environmental Health) received a letter of thanks from a business owner who truly appreciated all of their efforts.

"We cannot thank you all enough for your willingness to help a small business like us. We felt some slight relief from all our troubles when we got that precious call from you."

**Melina Beas-Campo** (ARCC) saved the day for a frustrated customer.

"She was courteous, efficient and above all positive. Please let her know how valuable to the County she is."

**County Library** customers from various communities are certain that their own library is the best of all branches.

**PineValley Branch:** "I am very happy and impressed with the extra activities; especially for kids...I am new to the area and appreciate all you have to offer."

**Poway Branch:** "Thank you for the best children's story time we've found and we have tried a lot of them, so I know this one is really good!"

**El Cajon Branch** (from a customer who stopped by to get information about writing a resume): "Best customer service in El Cajon."

**Greg Pollastrini** and staff (ARCC/Realty) were thanked for their help by an appraiser from the State Board of Equalization.

"[They] were invaluable and necessary...Your hospitality and cooperation are very much appreciated."

See next page for more Verbatim

Comments from satisfied customers served by County employees.

## Carto Meets Growing Digital Demands Within County

Business is booming at the Ruffin Road Annex, where Public Works' Cartographic Services team works hard to create posters, brochures, videos, logos and just about everything in between.

The demand for their services seems to grow by the day. Cartographer Steve Jonas attributes that to the new technology and expertise the unit has to offer.

"In the past year especially, we have seen a lot of improvements," Jonas says. He relates a recent example, in which an investigator came to Carto with an unusual request.

"The District Attorney's office wanted to use a cell phone video in court, but needed a way to transfer it to a useable format for jury display. We provided them with an MPG file that they were able to project from a laptop."

Carto has been applying high-tech developments to many unique situations. A new software purchase enables staff to help law enforcement capture details in blurred images, such as the license plate of a speeding car. New aerial displays and topographic maps allow Carto to help investigators track cell phone call times and locations, as well as verify witness accounts of crime scenes and accidents.

Such problem-solving tactics are earning this small unit great praise.

"They continue to adapt to meet our growing needs," says Denys Williams, Forensic Evidence Technician for the Sheriff's Crime Lab.

Adds DA Forensic Technician Kathie Rosario, "They've become one of our most valued partners in criminal prosecutions work."

While a bulk of the work Carto does is for the County's Public Safety Group, several other departments enjoy working with Carto because its services are easy to use. Once a client's account is set up, no sole source letters, purchase orders, bids or P-Card paperwork are needed for future jobs. Carto has even begun accepting online payments.

The road to technological ease and innovation has been a long one. Ten years ago, Carto could only produce one- or two-color signs printed on wood, which deteriorated quickly. By contrast, today's sign shop can produce full-color signs on durable, weather-resistant vinyl.

The recent acquisition of a large-format scanner is another significant upgrade. The old scanner only accommodated documents up to 11" x 17", requiring that larger documents be scanned

section by section. Carto's new scanner can handle documents of virtually any size.

Looking towards the future, Carto is exploring new possibilities. One application that could help many departments is a Geographic Information System (GIS) tied in to a database combining road scans and photographs of County property. Such technology could allow for the development of more accessible parcel maps; increased monitoring of County assets such as light posts and storm drains; and archived photo documentation of guard rails and road surfaces prior to accidents or weather damage.

For more details about Carto Services, contact **Steve Jonas** at (858) 694-3283.



*Ty Berlanga discusses the possibilities of surveillance video enhancements with a client.*

## Verbatim cont'd

**Pete Jacovino** (ARCC/Exemptions) received a letter of gratitude for his efforts regarding a property tax exemption.

"I realize that processing such requests is part of your job, but that doesn't mean that everyone takes their job or their responsibility to the public good as seriously as you do. Your efforts are more appreciated than you know."

**Barbara Silvia** (HSA) pleased a client with her efficiency and knowledge.

"I not only have received 100% (of) the qualified help of Ms. Barbara Silvia, but have been pleasantly amazed by her attention and the precise organization of service."

**Evelyn Hunnewell** (ARCC/Marriage Room) made a couple feel lucky that she was the one that performed their marriage ceremony.

"Thank you very much for the special treatment for our wedding. You helped make our day extra special!"



## News Briefs News Briefs cont.

### Backyard Campout a Hit with Kids

In a world where kids are watching television or surfing the internet instead of riding bikes, playing pickup ball games, or hiking to the neighborhood frog pond, the Great American Backyard Campout at 4S Ranch Community Park on June 23 showed kids and their families that there is a fun, healthy alternative to the sedentary life.

Sponsored by Parks and Recreation, the campout brought children, families, and neighbors into the park to generate interest in camping and the outdoors. The free night of camping in the park was attended by 125 kids from 8-17 years old

and provided an invaluable experience with nature for many youth who have not yet had the opportunity. The entire experience was designed to bring people together from different neighborhoods and backgrounds.

The Great American Backyard Campout was the result of a partnership between Parks and Recreation, the California Park and Recreation Society, Aztec Adventures Outdoor Program, and Paha Que Wilderness, with the assistance of the National Wildlife Federation and the Outdoor Industry Foundation. The annual event will be held in 2008 on June 28. For more information, call Jason Hemmens, Parks and Recreation, at (858) 966-1332.



### Mural Colors Children's Room in Lakeside

The County Library recently celebrated a new mural that encompasses all four walls of the Lakeside Branch's children's room. Local artist Mona Mills transformed the room into a world of colorful scenes that has earned recognition from PeaceBuilders, a youth anti-violence program.

PeaceBuilders praised the library, and the community of Lakeside, for incorporating one of their principles, "Seek Wise People" and inspiring children to use their imagination and their creativity to visit other worlds and cultures through the books they read. A photo and description of the mural is being featured on the organization's [Web site](#) through August 14.

The mural was made possible by the family of Joyce Wright, in honor of her 70th birthday. The family approached the library to find a way to celebrate Wright as an educator and someone who valued children and reading. The librarian told the donors that the library would love to perk up the children's room with a mural.

In researching her works, Mills worked with Kumeyaay birdsingers, the Lakeside Historical Society, the San Diego River Conservancy, the Lakeside Community Collaborative, and the Friends of the Lakeside Branch. Joan Embrey assisted the artist with content for the murals and provided photos and a quotation.

The colorful mural is one of several that artist Mona Mills has done for the County Library system. The library is located at 9839 Vine Street in Lakeside.

### "Ants" PSA Garners Three Emmys

A regionally funded public service announcement by the County and its regional stormwater partners received three Emmys awarded by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences—Pacific Southwest Chapter. The PSA titled "Ants in Your Plants?" was recognized in the categories of Direction of Pre-Produced Spot, Public Service Announcement and Cinematography.

The goal of "Ants in Your Plants?" is to raise awareness about not overusing pesticides to kill ants because doing so can harm the environment, especially the water supply. Spraying pesticides only kills surface ants, not the colony.

### CSS Radio Campaign Acknowledged

In June, the San Diego Broadcasters Association (SDBA) presented Child Support Services with an "Excellence in Advertising in Radio" award for its "Child Support Dad" radio campaign. The campaign was among a limited number of commercials chosen by a panel of 22 San Diego radio professionals. The award acknowledged the campaign's effectiveness, creativity and quality of production. The campaign aired from March to June 2006 on select FM stations. During its run time, phone requests for child support applications increased by nearly 13 percent and online requests increased by 21 percent. In addition to the SDBA award, the campaign has been acknowledged with a National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award. This was the department's sixth award in the fiscal year 06/07.

### Sheriff's Honored for Traffic Safety

The Sheriff's Department received a National Law Enforcement Challenge Award from the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The Law Enforcement Challenge is a competition between similar sizes and types of law enforcement agencies that recognizes and rewards the best overall traffic safety programs in the United States. The Sheriff's Department was recognized for its ability to combine officer training, public information and enforcement efforts to reduce motor vehicle accidents and injuries.

The Sheriff's Department will also be awarded a California Law Enforcement Challenge Award from the California Highway Patrol for its traffic safety accomplishments.



## News Briefs News Briefs cont.

### Bringing World Music Closer to Home

The County Library and Friends of the Solana Beach Library are co-sponsoring a free concert of contemporary Brazilian music at the Solana Beach Branch Library at 7 p.m. on Friday, August 10. The library is located at 157 Stevens Avenue in Solana Beach. The concert, which is part of the 2007 San Diego County Library World Music and Cultural Arts Series features Katia Moraes & Sambaguru. The group is an ensemble of six musicians from Brazil, Sri Lanka and the United States who perform a rich and extensive repertoire of original music reflective of their diverse backgrounds. Reservations are recommended; call the Solana Beach Library at (858) 755-1404.

### Bets for Badges

The Sheriff's Museum and Educational Center is holding a "Casino Royale Cruise Night" on September 20. Guests will set sail for a two-hour cruise on the San Diego Bay and be treated to casino games, dinner and a program. The evening includes a silent and live auction. Proceeds help keep admission free to the public. Each year 14,000 students from the San Diego City Schools alone tour the museum, plus every new Sheriff's employee and visitors from around the world. The museum is located in Old Town, just 100 feet from where San Diego's first cobblestone jail once stood in 1850. Tickets start at \$150 per person (prices good through August 31; tickets are limited). For more information, call the Sheriff's Museum at (619) 260-1850.



### HIRT Takes a Hit to Raise Awareness

Environmental Health's Hazardous Incident Response Team once again lent their support to the San Diego Burn Institute's annual Burn Run and Fire Expo. HIRT has participated by putting on demonstrations for kids at the expo for more than 18 years. Held this year on July 14 at Qualcomm Stadium, HIRT members let the kids help "decontaminate" a firefighter using the decontamination foam. The team reports that of the approximately 200 kids in the audience, most every one of them stood in line to get a chance to shoot "the big squirt guns."

The event is designed to heighten public awareness of modern emergency services and is hailed as California's largest firefighting event.

## NEWSMAKERS

**William Crowell** was named Chief Information Officer. He brings a unique combination of successful public and private experience in his 30 years of leadership in information technology. Crowell, who starts Aug. 3, most recently served as the Chief Information Officer for the State of Oregon Department of Human Services. He will oversee all aspects of the County Technology Office, including a seven-year, \$667 million contract with Northrop Grumman to manage the County's information technology services.

**Gerri Matthiesen**, North Inland Public Health Nurse, received the 2007 Honor Society of Nursing Sigma Theta Tau International "Excellence in Nursing Award in Leadership." The vision of the Society is to create a global community of nurses who lead in using knowledge, scholarship, service and learning to improve the health of the world's people. Matthiesen received this honor for her leadership with North Inland Public Health Nurses in the Mobile Remote Workforce Business Process Re-engineering pilot project.

**Ken Marlow**, Parks and Recreation Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analyst, received the Most Artistic award at the 26th Annual ESRI User Conference for two maps created for the interpretive panels at Sweetwater Regional Park. The ESRI Conference is held annually in San Diego, and is considered the premier conference worldwide for GIS professionals. The maps were created to assist visitors by providing greater information about the history, archaeology, flora and usage of the Sweetwater watershed.

## Service Awards

### 30 years

Scott Belfield (Health & Human Services)  
Theresa Ann Frias (Sheriff)  
Benjamin F. Hernandez (Sheriff)  
Scott R. Watson (Public Works)

### 25 years

Peter Astuto (Sheriff)  
Vickie L. Church (Environmental Health)  
Donald M. Tapper (Sheriff)  
Jack D. Watson (Sheriff)

### 20 years

Roxanne Brown (Health & Human Services)  
Steven J. Carroll (Public Defender)  
Caesar J. Cuesta (Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk)  
Vida C. Dominguez (Health & Human Services)  
Norma I. Fortinberry (Sheriff)  
Sharron K. Frisby (Health & Human Services)  
John P. Gaffaney (Health & Human Services)  
Margaret Gant (Sheriff)  
Angelica H. Gutierrez (District Attorney)  
John R. Haefner (Health & Human Services)  
Kevin T. Heiss (Air Pollution Control)  
David Kellum (Agriculture, Weights & Measures)  
Janet M. Miller (Health & Human Services)  
Diana L. B. Moore (Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk)  
Deanna Myers (Health & Human Services)  
Patricia M. Nemcek (Health & Human Services)  
Teresita L. Pinano (Health & Human Services)  
Esmeralda A. Sarmiento (District Attorney)

## Retirements

Susan L. Battisti (Health & Human Services)  
Karon D. Callahan (Superior Court)  
Randy J. Courtice (Superior Court)  
Janet L. Dean-Forbes (Superior Court)  
Thomas F. Donnellan (Health & Human Services)  
Marianne Gallagher (District Attorney)  
Douglas L. George (Parks & Recreation)  
Armando O. Gonzalez (Public Works)  
Dominique Guillochon (Health & Human Services)  
Hugo F. Lopez (Health & Human Services)

Maria A. Mangahas (Sheriff)  
Inez R. Martinez (Human Resources)  
Socorro G. Medrano (Health & Human Services)  
Jennifer O. Misa (Sheriff)  
Josephine M. Pizarro (Treasurer-Tax Collector)  
Clay F. Reynard (Sheriff)  
Donald A. Sawrey (Sheriff)  
Deborah L. Simonin (Child Support Services)  
Largion Soriano (Health & Human Services)  
Charlotte A. Turner (Sheriff)

## In Memoriam

Dana J. Buckles (Probation, 1976)	5/07	Sarah A. Markarian (Health Services, 1981)	5/07
Henry R. Byrd (Auditor & Controller, 1974)	5/07	John J. McCann (Social Services, 1988)	6/07
Donald D. Clausen (District Attorney, 1983)	5/07	Geraldine W. O'Connell (Public Welfare, 1976)	6/07
Betty J. Crouch (Municipal Court, 1975)	6/07	Delores M. Passafume (Health Services, 1985)	5/07
Henry W. Hightman (Sheriff, 1994)	6/07	Donald L. Schott (Public Works, 1996)	5/07
Roberta J. Lake (Superior Court, 2003)	5/07	Christine C. Squires (Social Services, 1978)	5/07
Basil J. Lamb (Planning & Land Use, 1991)	5/07	Lee A. Thomas (Municipal Court, 1990)	5/07
Anne M. LeBlanc (Probation, 1984)	5/07	Lula Y. Turner (Health Services, 1987)	5/07
Mildred M. Marek (Health Services, 1973)	5/07	Fred A. Zuelzke (Municipal Court, 1974)	5/07